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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GENEVA 06957 101614Z

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5719

S E C R E T GENEVA 6957

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FOR SECRETARY, SISCO, ATHERTON FROM SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1,3
TAGS: EG IS PFOR
SUBJ: GENEVA MILITARY WORKING GROUP--ISRAELI VIEW

1. IN HIS ACCOUNT THIS AFTERNOON (SEPT 10) OF FIRST TWO SUBSTANTIVE MEETINGS OF MILITARY WORKING GROUP, GAZIT RAISED BASIC QUESTION WITHOUT ASKING US TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT AT THIS STAGE. QUESTION IS WHETHER EGYPTIANS HAVE SAME UNDERSTANDING AS ISRAELIS FOLLOWING SHUTTLE ON CERTAIN ISSUES.

2. TWO ISSUES CITED BY GAZIT WHICH HAVE ARISEN SO FAR ARE:
A. WITH REGARD TO ISRAELI REDEPLOYMENT IN NORTHERN SECTOR (NORTH OF SUEZ) GAZIT SAYS RECORDS OF CONVERSATIONS SINCE MARCH CLEARLY SHOW US-ISRAELI UNDERSTANDING THAT ISRAELIS WOULD NOT PULL BACK IN PHASES BUT ALL AT ONCE AT END OF IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD. I SAID I REMEMBERED ISRAELIS TELLING US DURING AUGUST SHUTTLE THAT THIS WAS THEIR PLAN, BUT I SAID I REMEMBERED NO DISCUSSION OF TIMING OF EGYPTIANS MOVE INTO PRESENT BUFFER ZONE, WHICH WOULD INVOLVE UNEF AND NOT ISRAEL. HE ACKNOWLEDGED LATTER POINT.
B. WITH REGARD TO COMMON USE OF ROAD IN SOUTHERN AREA, GAZIT FEELS MAGHDOUB MAY NOT HAVE THE WORD FROM HIS SUPERIORS THAT ISRAEL IS TO HAVE UNRESTRICTED USE.
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I SUGGESTED THAT, IF IT BECAME NECESSARY, GAZIT JUST STATE

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HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEGOTIATING HISTORY AND LET MAGHDOUB CONSULT CAIRO.

3. GAZIT DID NOT PRESS BUT SEEMED INTERESTED IN REFERRING MAGHDOUB TO ME WHENEVER QUESTIONS AROSE SO THAT YOU COULD INTERVENE IN CAIRO. I SUGGESTED THAT FOR NOW WE KEEP DISCUSSION BETWEEN PARTIES HERE AND LET EACH CONSULT ITS OWN GOVERNMENT AND THAT WE NOT ESTABLISH PATTERN OF RUNNING TO WASHINGTON ON EACH ISSUE. I HAVE FEELING THAT PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS WILL BE FOUND TO MOST OF THESE ISSUES IF THE TWO SIDES AND THE UN ARE GIVEN SOME TIME TO WORK THEM OVER. IF MAJOR IMPASSE DEVELOPS, WE WILL STILL HAVE OPTION OF INVOLVING OURSELVES.

4. FOR MY OWN BACKGROUND, HOWEVER, RESPONSES TO TWO QUESTIONS WOULD BE HELPFUL:
A. IS THERE AS FIRM AN UNDERSTANDING AS GAZIT SAYS THAT ISRAEL WILL HAVE CONTROL UP TO LINE B UNTIL FEBRUARY 22? I DO NOT RECALL ANY COMMITMENTS ON OUR SIDE, ALTHOUGH I RECALL RABIN STATING HIS VIEW FIRMLY.
B. ARE WE CONFIDENT GAMASY UNDERSTANDS THAT ISRAELI USE OF COMMON ROAD IS UNRESTRICTED?

5. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO TEL AVIV AND CAIRO. ABRAMS

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